

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /165 W

----- 090570

R 160944Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0603

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET US SA

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTNCE FOR ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 171544, JIDDA 4516

1. IN AUGUST 15 MEETING FONMIN I PROVIDED HIM WITH SUMMARY OF AUGUST 5 MEETING OF UNDER SECRETARY SISCO WITH AMBASSADOR KIFLE. ZEWDE SAID MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAD RECEIVED REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT BUT HAD NOT YET PROVIDED HIM WITH THIS INFORMATION. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY UNCERTAIN HOW GENERAL AMAN AND ARMED FORCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE WOULD REACT TO USG DECISION. HE SAID FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAD TAKEN POSITION THAT US GRANT ASSISTANCE IS THE MOST DESIRABLE TYPE BUT THAT SITUATION IS SO DESPERATE THAT ETHIOPIA MUST ALSO RESORT TO CREDIT AND CASH PURCHASES FROM US. GENERAL AMAN'S POSITION, ON OTHER HAND, HAS COME CLOSE TO AN INSISTENCE THAT ANYTHING OTHER THAN GRANT ASSISTANCE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. ZEWDE SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW AFCC STANDS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. I THEN BROUGHT UP POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE FROM SAUDI ARABIA. I AID IT WAS CLEAR FROM A CONVERSATION OUR AMBASSADOR HAD HAD WITH SAUDI ARABIAN FONMIN THAT SAG IS INTERESTED IN ETHIOPIA'S SECURITY PROBLEM AND WOULD BE PREPARED LISTEN TO
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ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR ASYISTANCE. I SAID SAUDIS MIGHT WELL BE

THINKING ONLY OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WHICH HAD AN INDIRECT
RELATION TO THE SECURITY PROBLEM, BUT THAT IN ANY CASE IT
APPEARED THAT AN EXPLORATORY VISIT IN JIDDA MIGHT BE USEFUL.
ZEWDE REPLIED THAT HE HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSING WITH SAUDI
CHARGE IN ADDIS TIMING OF A POSSIBLE VISIT BY HIM TO JIDDA. HE
NOW EXPECTS STOP IN JIDDA TO EXPLORE ASSISTANCE POSSIBILITIES
EITHER ON HIS WAY TO THE CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICAN MEETING AT
BRAZZAVILLE BEGINNING AUGUST 24, OR ON HIS WAY BACK FROM THAT
MEETING.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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